

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 9666

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, TU
SUBJ: TURKISH DELEGATION TO U.S.

1. LAST EVENING, SENATOR KAMRAN INAN, JP CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, STOPPED BY THE EMBASSY RESIDENCE FOR A PRIVATE TOUR D'HORIZON. IN THE COURSE OF OUR DISCUSSION, HE SPOKE OF HAVING URGED PRIMIN DEMIREL TO SEND A SMALL BUT VERY GOOD DELEGATION OF PRIVATE TURKS TO WASHINGTON. HIS IDEA WAS THAT THIS MISSION SHOULD BE RUN ON A LOW-KEY, HIGH QUALITY, BASIS. IT SHOULD ARRIVE IN TOWN ABOUT THE TIME THE CONGRESS CAME BACK WITH A VIEW TO CONTACTING CONGRESSMEN, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, AND ACADEMICIANS IN ORDER TO EXPLAIN TURKISH POLICIES. THEY WOULD ALSO STRESS THEIR CONCERNS OVER FURTHER DELAY IN FIMLY RE-ESTABLISHING THE US-TURKISH PARTNER-SHIP. IN THIS CONNECTION THEY WILL URGE PROMPT CONGRESSIONAL ENDORSEMENT OF THE NEW US/TURKISH DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT.

2. THIS MORNING (DECEMBER 21) DURING COURSE OF MEETING WITH MFA SECGEN ELEKDAG, HE RAISED THE SAME PROPOSAL, SAYING THAT THE PRIMIN AND FONMIN NOW HAD DECIDED THAT SUCH A MISSION SHOULD BE DISPATCHED. IT WOULD ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON EARLY IN JANUARY AND ITS MEMBERSHIP WOULD BE:

1) FEYYAZ BERKER-PROMINENT ISTANBUL BUSINESSMAN
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AND A LEADER/ORGANIZER OF AN EARLIER BUSINESS GROUP TO WASHINGTON, HERE REGARDED TO HAVE DONE AN EXCELLENT JOB.

2) DR. IHSAN DOGRAMCI-FOUNDER OF HACETTEPE UNIVERSITY, ONE OF TURKEY'S MOST DYNAMIC AND FAMOUS FIGURES, AND WELL-KNOWN IN US MEDICAL AND ACADEMIC CIRCLES.

3) PROFESSOR OZMAN OKYAR-A DISTINGUISHED, IMPRESSIVE,

AND SOFT-SPOKEN ACADEMICIAN, FORMER RECTOR OF ATATURK UNIVERSITY AND SON OF FETHI OKYAR. THE LATTER WAS AN INTIMATE OF ATATURK'S WHO, AT ATATURK'S INSTIGATION, BRIEFLY LED TURKEY'S FIRST OPPOSITION PARTY IN THE ATATURK ERA.

4) SELAHATTIN BEYAZIT-WEALTHY AND WELL-KNOWN ISTANBUL BUSINESSMAN WHO, AMONG OTHER THINGS, IS PRESIDENT OF THE GALATASARAY FOOTBALL CLUB, ROUGHLY COMPARABLE IN US TERMS TO BEING PRESIDENT OF THE NEW YORK YANKEES.

3. ELEKDAG SAID HE HAD CABLED TO AMBASSADOR ESENBEL ASKING FOR SUGGESTIONS ON WHO SUCH A GROUP SHOULD CALL ON. HE SAID THE GOT WOULD ALSO VERY MUCH LIKE TO HAVE THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON HOW SUCH A GROUP COULD BE MOST EFFECTIVELY USED AND, SPECIFICALLY, WHO THEY SHOULD ATTEMPT TO SEE.

4. COMMENT: THIS FOURSOME IS INDEED A DISTINGUISHED GROUP, WELL-CALCULATED TO PRESENT AN EFFECTIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE TURKISH IMAGE. THEY ARE COMING TO ANKARA FOR BRIEFINGS NEXT MONDAY, DECEMBER 27. I WOULD, THEREFORE, BE GRATEFUL TO HAVE BY THAT TIME ANY SUGGESTIONS THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO MAKE RE THEIR SCHEDULING. MACOMBER

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